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#9
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Nightmares
& Fairy Tales

Nightmares and Fairy Tales, Issue 9

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Gwen & the Magical Tree

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I'm so excited!
I've never seen giant trees before. Do you think there will be fairies?
I think so.
What's wrong, Bunny?
I've never been this far from home before.
But it's fun!
You're totally lucky...it's your first day of school and you get to go on a field trip!
SCHOOL BUS

Quiet everyone, quiet.
Thank you.

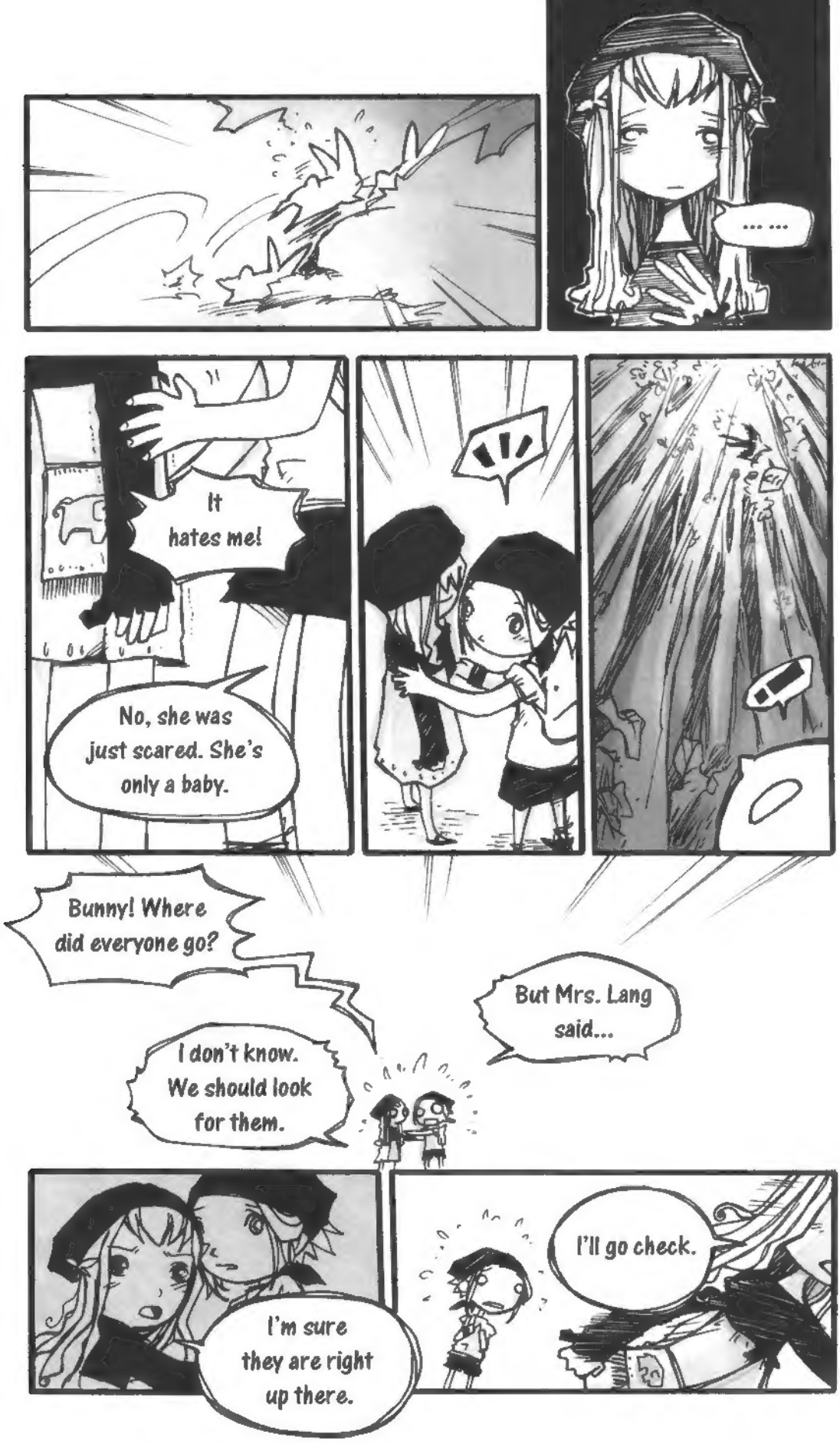
Please remember to stay together as a group.
Do not wander off on your own. If for some reason...

...you do get separated from the rest of us, stay put until we find you. Do you all have a buddy?

Okay, then let's go!

Thanks for being my buddy, Gwen.
You're welcome, Bunny.

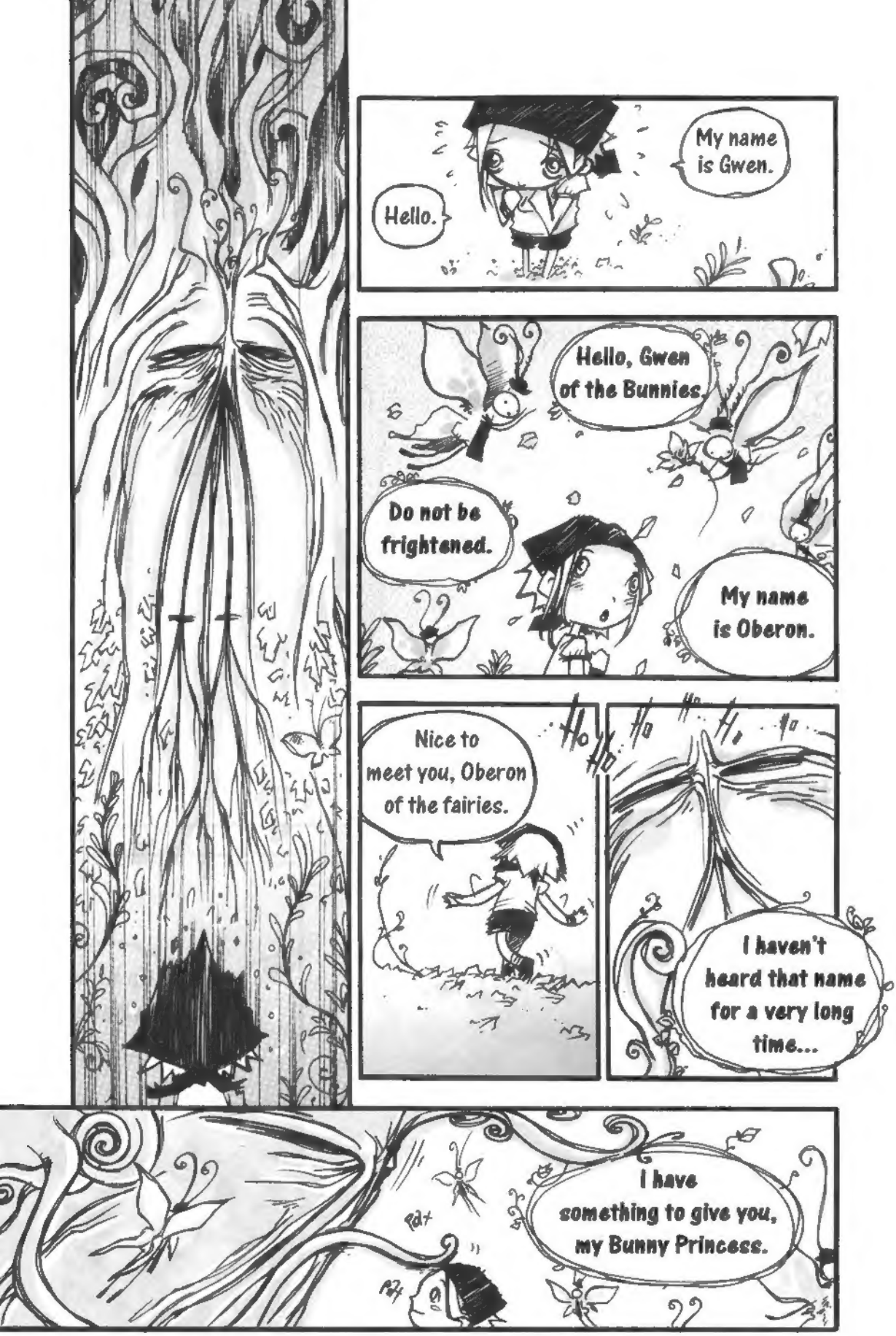
RUSS..
RUSS..
RUSS..
Oh! They're so cute!
SNIF
Hee... Hee...
Its nose tickles!


... ...
It hates me!
No, she was just scared. She's only a baby.
Bunny! Where did everyone go?
But Mrs. Lang said...
I don't know. We should look for them.
I'm sure they are right up there.
I'll go check.

I wish I brought Annabelle with me.

Z

You are a very gentle creature, and quiet too.
I like that.
!?
Up here, my quiet one.


Hello.
My name is Gwen.
Hello, Gwen of the Bunnies.
Do not be frightened.
My name is Oberon.
Nice to meet you, Oberon of the fairies.
Ho Ho Ho Ho
I haven't heard that name for a very long time...
I have something to give you, my Bunny Princess.

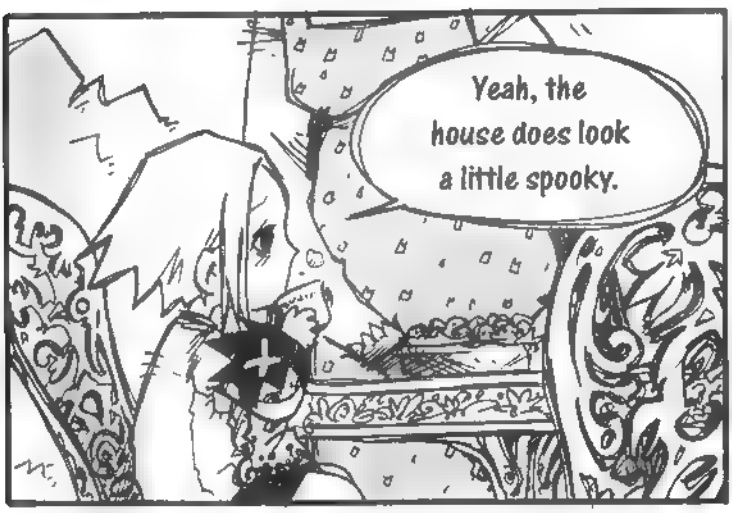
Wisteria, would you be so kind as to give Gwen a little gift?
Thank you.
Gwen!
I will.
Keep it until the day you should need it.
Gwen!
Gwen, wake up.
GASP
I'm sorry, Mrs. Lang. I didn't mean to fall behind.

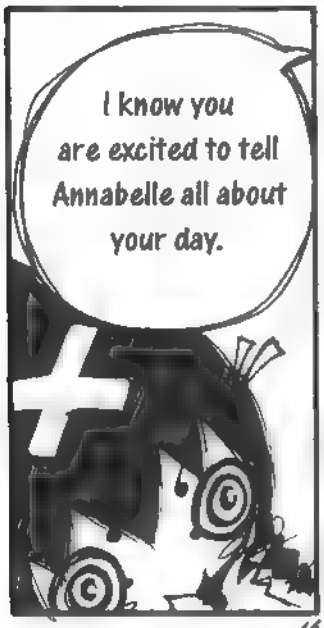
What happened?
I'm sorry, I got lost trying to find the others.
I should have stayed with you. Are you mad at me?
No. I'm just happy they found you.
Do you want to spend the night at my house?
There's no school tomorrow.
I'll ask my Aunt Bea.

SCHOOL BUS
Call me later and let me know what your aunt says.

Aunt Bea! I had such an exciting day!
Come inside, my dear, and tell me all about it over biscuits and jam.
I made a new friend. Her name is Bunny!
What a lovely name.
She wants me to spend the night.
How sweet.
Do you have her number so I may speak with her parents?
I do.
She lives at the end of the block.

How wonderful.
I'm happy to hear someone's moved into that old house.
Perhaps a new family will transform that gloomy looking place into something more cheerful.


Yeah, the house does look a little spooky.


I know you are excited to tell Annabelle all about your day.

Why don't you two enjoy your snack...
...while I call Bunny's parents.

I'm so happy your aunt said you could stay over.
Hello, Bunny!
Me too!

And you must be Bunny's mother.
It's so nice to meet you.

Hello.
It's nice to meet you as well.

Thank you for letting Gwen spend the night. I was afraid it would be difficult for Bunny to find new friends...
...having just moved here and all...

See you tomorrow, sweetie. Have a wonderful time.
Thank you.

Goodnight.

!
Bunny, why don't you show Gwen your room while I finish dinner?
Okay.
... ...?

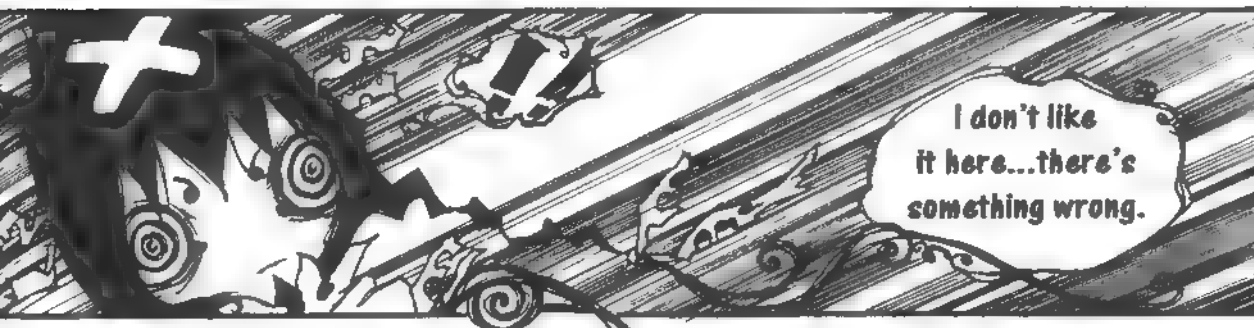
I love your room.
Thanks.

Bunny! I need your help with something.

Wait here...

...I'll be right back.

Isn't this a great room?


I don't like it here...there's something wrong.

You always think there's something wrong...
It's not real.

Tik
Tik
Tik
Tik
Tik
Tik
Tik
Tik

... ...
I'm gonna go find Bunny.
What's going on?
Leave now!
It's locked!
Don't leave, Gwen.

I won't have anyone to play with.
Bunny!
Where are you?
The others won't play with me...
...I have only you.
Help us!
Help us!
Help us!
My acorn!
Pik
Pik
Pik
Pik

!!
Come up to my room and play with me, Gwen.
Tik
Tik
Tik
Don't do it.
Why are you doing this, Bunny?

I'm lonely, and the other children won't play with me.
Where's your mother?
There is no mother.

Only me...
...and the dead ones.
We have to find a way out of here.

There is no way out.
Please...
...Bunny, let me out!

You will be happy here, I promise...
We can play forever.

Why are these children trapped here?
Who are they?

Don't pay attention to them.
They're no fun. They wouldn't play...
...but you will...
...won't you, Gwen?
I don't want to have to put you in the mirror too.
... ...
You'll never get out! You're just like the others!
I HATE YOU!

I liked you...
...I didn't want to put you in the mirror...
Splash
Hold on tight, little friend of Oberon.

Gwen!

Down you go, my little Princess.
Thank goodness you are safe!
Goodnight my dear ladies, it is time for my rest.
Please visit me often...and do not despair if you no longer hear me speak. Be assured, I will be listening.
I promise to come see you every day!
Thank you!
Yes, I thank you too, with all of my heart.
Come on, darling, let's go home. You can tell me all about your adventure over a nice hot cup of cocoa.
The end

Nightmares and Fairy Tales issue #10 – September 2004!

Serena Valentino & FSc

Annabelle recalls the story of a beautiful woman who is tomrented by her monstrous husband – in this modern retelling of the classic fairytale,

Beauty & the Beast

Nightmares & Fairy Tales

A Message from Serena

Hello darlings,

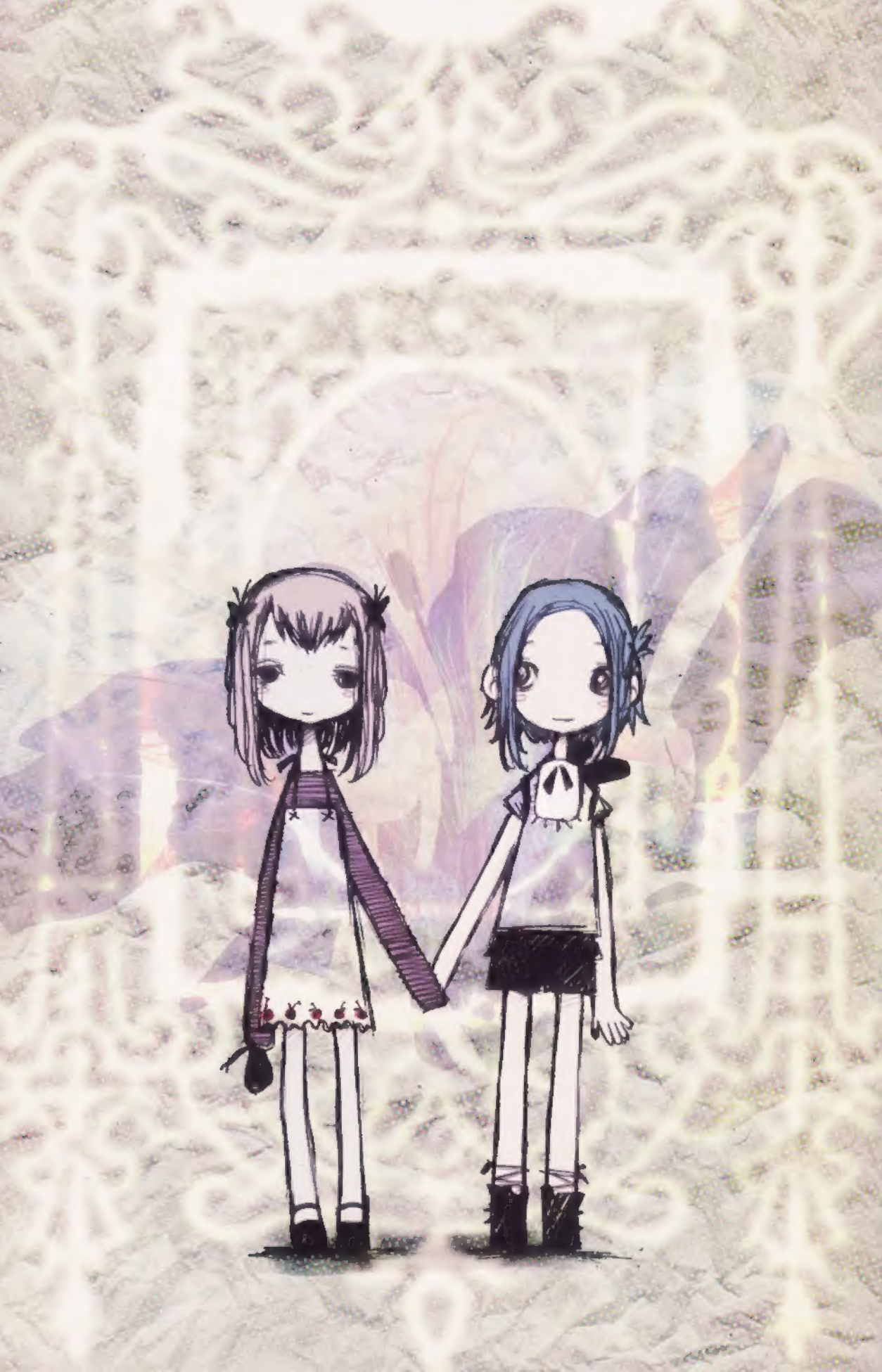
Thank you for joining us again for another issue of Nightmares.

I had a lovely time writing it. I always enjoy my time with Gwen.

I also want to thank everyone who has been sending in letters & email letting us know how much you're enjoying our first N & F collection. I have to say FSc and I are very flattered by all your kind words and praise, and it is inspiring us to make the next collection even better.

I got a chance to see some of you at Wondercon and it was a pleasure. I hope to see even more of you at the San Diego Comic con in July... and this time FSc will be there as well - so come on by the SLG booth and say hello to us!

For more info on The Comic Con, visit www.comic-con.org

Until next time,

Serena